

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name "Wars of America"

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number in Military Park, 614-706 Broad Street NA ☐ not for publication

city or town Newark ☐ vicinity

034

state New Jersey code NJ county Essex code 013 zip code 07102

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/13/94
Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

for
Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

10.28.94

"Wars of America"
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☒ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Public Sculpture in Newark, N.J.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/monument

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: monument/sculpture

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls

roof

other bronze

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

"Wars of America"
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art

Period of Significance

1926

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gutzon Borglum

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Newark Preservation & Landmarks Committee

"Wars of America"
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

Elizabeth, NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	570060	4510900
Zone	Easting	North	ing
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	North	ing
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ulana D. Zakalak/ Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Zakalak Associates date April 13, 1994

street & number 57 Cayuga Avenue telephone (908) 571-3176

city or town Oceanport state NJ zip code 07757

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Newark

street & number 920 Broad Street telephone (201) 733-3825

city or town Newark state N.J. zip code 07102

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Public Sculpture in Newark MPS

"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Description

"Wars of America" is a monumental, bronze, group sculpture dedicated to the defense of the United States, created by John de la Mothe Gutzon Borglum (1867-1941), and located in the center of Military Park, City of Newark. Dedicated on Memorial Day, May 31st, 1926, the sculpture was commissioned according to the bequest of Newark businessman, Amos Hoagland Van Horn, who bequeathed \$100,000 for that purpose.

"Wars of America" is a heroic-sized, bronze grouping of forty-two figures and two horses, all in motion. The action of the monument represents the American people summoned to the defense of their freedom. It shows the breaking of home ties, the hurried change of dress and the gathering of men into units moving forward into battle. The great leaders of the past join the group to transform it into an army. The group is placed on an incline, which emphasizes the struggle and shows the upward character of it. The pageant is headed by four figures, which represent the wars of 1776, 1861, 1898 and 1917. Behind this leadership appear the troops of all those years. Among these is a life-size representation of Amos H. Van Horn, the "Volunteer of 1861," who with his comrades, storms the heights "with heart that beats a charge." Other figures include a soldier bidding goodbye to his wife and child, the "top sergeant" arguing with the conscientious objector, a Red Cross nurse, the departing aviator in the likeness of John Purroy Mitchell saying farewell to his mother, and a father giving comfort and strength to his daughter whose husband has just joined the colors. For two of the models Borglum used himself and his son, Lincoln, and, likenesses of many of his friends can be found in other figures.

The monument was designed to occupy a central position in Military Park, the original military "Training Place" set aside by Robert Treat and the founders of Newark. Its setting is at the end of a long reflecting pool which produces the shape, as seen from the air, of a Tudor sword with the monument as its hilt. The entire plan of the monument is about 300 feet in length. The monument itself, which is set on a granite block

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"Wars of America"

Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

coping, is 42' long, 18' wide and 17' high (Newark Evening News 6/8/27; Wars of America Memorial Monument Dedication [program] 1926; Schaff 1984: 177-180, 222).

The casting was completed in Florence, Italy in 1925, and the monument was dedicated on May 31st, 1926. The monument was restored in 1990, and rededicated on May 31st, 1990. The reflecting pool has not been repaired and is dry.

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Section number 8 Page 3 Public Sculpture in Newark MPS

"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Statement of Significance

"Wars of America" is significant under National Register Criteria C, because it is the work of Gutzon Borglum, a recognized master, and it possesses high artistic values. At the time of its construction, "Wars of America" was the largest bronze sculpture in the country. It is considered to be one of Gutzon Borglum's masterpieces, and his most eloquent work in bronze.

"Wars of America" was given to the City of Newark by the bequest of Newark businessman, Amos Hoagland Van Horn. Van Horn died on December 26, 1908, leaving \$100,000 for a memorial to the soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War. The site of Military Park was specified in his will. All else, including the design and the selection of the sculptor, was left to the discretion of his executors, Ralph Lum, John Martenis and George Wire (Van Horn Trust 1912: 12-13). The executors, and the previously selected "Seated Lincoln" Monument Committee, unanimously appointed Gutzon Borglum as the sculptor. They had been so pleased with his "Seated Lincoln" that they awarded him the commission, giving him complete artistic freedom, limited only by the amount of Van Horn's bequest.

The monument was dedicated on Memorial Day, 1926, with the Hon. John R. Hardin presiding. The monument was unveiled by Alice Mae Waer, great niece of Amos H. Van Horn. After the unveiling, Gutzon Borglum presented the monument to Ralph Lum, a trustee of the Van Horn estate. Lum, in turn presented the monument to Mayor Thomas Raymond. Addresses were made by Brigadier General Hugh A. Drum, representing the Secretary of War, the Hon. Curtis D. Wilbur, Secretary of the Navy, and the Governor of New Jersey, Hon. A. Harry Moore (Wars of America Memorial Monument Dedication [program] 1926).

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Section number 8 Page 4 Public Sculpture in Newark MPS

"Wars of America"

Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Amos H. Van Horn

Amos Hoagland Van Horn was born in Warren County, New Jersey, on November 26, 1840. Educated in the Danville public schools, Van Horn received his earliest training in his father's general store. In 1860, Van Horn borrowed five dollars from his brother Edward, and opened a small furniture repair shop in Newark. When the Civil War broke out, Van Horn volunteered in Company A of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment, selling his business for \$25. During the war, his brigade took part in many battles and was commended for gallantry. He was mustered out of service on June 27, 1863.

Upon returning to Newark, Van Horn started his furniture business again and gradually prospered until his business required the erection of several buildings on Market Street. By the end of the century, Van Horn had expanded into the storage and warehouse business, as well as carpet cleaning. In July, 1906, his concern was succeeded by Cowperthwait and Van Horn, although Van Horn remained on the board of directors until his death. During his many years as a Newark leading businessman, Van Horn contributed generously to many civic and charitable causes and was an active member of Lincoln Post No. 11, Grand Army of the Republic (Van Horn Trust 1912: 5-11).

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Section number 9 Page 5 Public Sculpture in Newark MPS

"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

9. Major Bibliographic References

"Borglum Describes War Monument as a Departure from Set Forms."
Newark Evening News, 17 April, 1926: n.p.

Borglum, Gutzon. "The 'Wars of America' Monument." New Jersey Master Mason, July 1926.

"Bronze Realization of a Sculptor's Dream, and the Dreamer."
Newark Evening News, 11 March, 1926: n.p.

Cunningham, John T. Newark. Newark: New Jersey Historical Society, 1966.

Kniffin, Robert. "Borglum Was 'Surprised'; Condition of Military Park Monument 'Shocked' Him When He Saw It."
Newark News, 13 August 1961: n.p.

Shaff, Howard and Audrey Karl Shaff. Six Wars at a Time. Sioux Falls, South Dakota: The Center for Western Studies, 1985.

Thurlow, Fearn. "Newark's Sculpture." Newark Museum Quarterly Vol. 26, No. 1, Winter 1975.

Van Horn Trust. The Newark Lincoln, a memorial. Newark: Newark Free Public Library for the Trustees of the Van Horn Trust, 1912.

Wars of America Memorial Dedication, Military Park, N.J. (program). Newark: May 31, 1912.

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Section number 10 Page 6 Public Sculpture in Newark MPS

"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated monument consists of the sculpture, the Tudor sword setting which it occupies, and the low stone wall surrounding the entire monument.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the site of the "Wars of America."

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Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTO Page 7 Public Sculpture in Newark MPS

"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex County, New Jersey

Photograph List

The following information is the same for all of the
photographs listed:

- 1) Name of property: "Wars of America"
- 2) City, county and state: Newark, Essex County, New Jersey
- 3) Photographer: Gerry Weinstein
- 4) Date of Photographs: November 3, 1993
- 5) Location of Negatives: Photo Recording Associates
40 W. 77th Street 17B
New York, New York 10024

6) & 7) Description of views indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 6: "Wars of America." Overall view, Tudor sword
reflecting pool in foreground. View looking north.

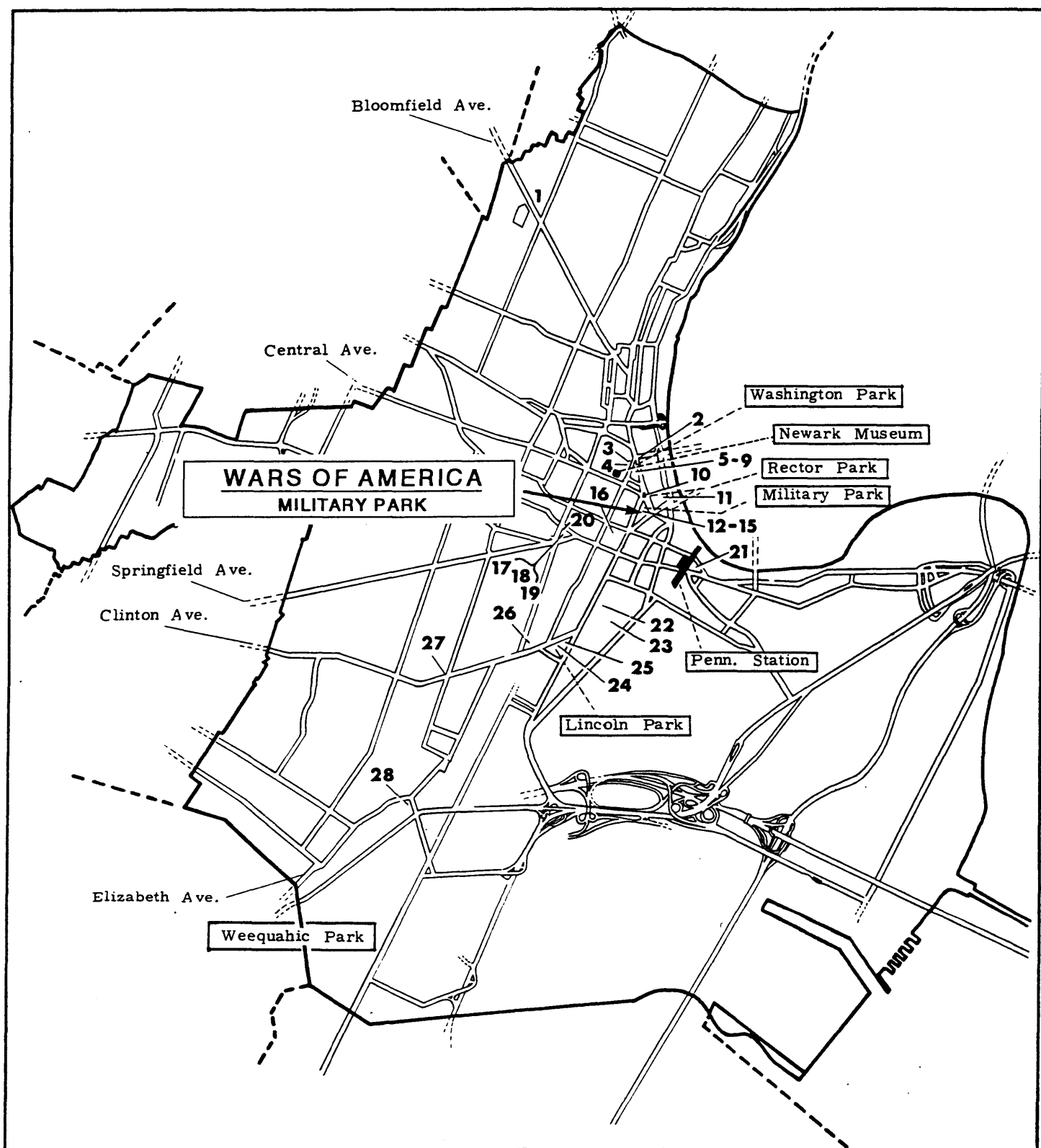
Photo 2 of 6: "Wars of America." Close-up of the front, view
looking north.

Photo 3 of 6: "Wars of America." View looking east.

Photo 4 of 6: "Wars of America." Close-up of view looking east.

Photo 5 of 6: "Wars of America." Close-up of view looking west.

Photo 6 of 6: "Wars of America." Rear of sculpture; view looking
south.



WARS OF AMERICA

MILITARY PARK

Public Sculpture in Newark MPS
Essex County, New Jersey



"Wais of America"
Newark, Essex Cty, NJ
Photo 1 of 6

Public Sculpture in Newark mps



"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex Cty, NJ
Photo 2 of 6

Public sculpture in Newark mps



"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex Cty, NJ
Photo 3 of 6

Public Sculpture in Newark mps



"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex Cty, NJ
Photo 4 of 6

Public Sculpture in Newark mps



"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex Cty, NJ
Photo 5 of 6

Public Sculpture in Newark mps



"Wars of America"
Newark, Essex Cty, NJ
Photo 6 of 6

Public Sculpture in Newark mps